

Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office building , Room 2700  
Hartford, Connecticut, 06106  
February 21, 2017

To the members of the Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this letter as an expression of my concern with regard to the possibility of the transfer of funding for Birth-3 from OEC to DSS. Of particular concern is the ability of DSS to adequately administer funding for the program in order to not disrupt the services being provided to the children and their families.

Under CMS and DSS the new fee for service system will compromise the quality of services. Consequently, there will be negative effects for the children and resulting increased costs to local special education departments. The fee for service system was previously tried and found to be costly; therefore, it was eliminated.

I am a teacher and for the past sixteen years, I have been a teacher and developmental therapist in the Cheshire Public Schools Birth to Three Program. Funding for Birth to Three, and its alignment with the OEC, is practical and sustainable in terms of the continuation of services and is the most beneficial support for families, children and the special education programs in Connecticut's public school systems.

Sincerely,  
Theresa P. Olear, M.S., M.A.  
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